WITCHES' TALES

FEB. 1971
50¢

FEATURING:
THE WEIRD TERROR OF
THE ZOMBIE MANIKINS
PLUS A FLESH ROTTING THING
CALLED
THE STRANGE CORPSE
PLUS THE UNUSUAL
VOODOO TERROR
PLUS

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CONTENTS FOR FEBRUARY 1971 Vol. 3 No. 1

THE ZOMBIE MANIKINS 4
Conrad LeBaron recreated fleshless corpses into things of dead beauty and then fell victim to his zombie manikins.

THE STRANGE CORPSE 11
When progress threatened to disturb a rotting corpse, it brought deadly horror to a tranquil valley.

VOODOO HORROR 17
A sculptor's misery led him to the brink of disaster and then threw him into the vortex of Haiti's secret voodoo.

WEB OF TERROR 24
Face-to-face with the razor edge of the unknown, a young couple realize they are on the road of no return.

WITCH'S REVENGE 30
The shocking tale of the Evil One who dared to look at the cruel heart of John Adams and mete out a just punishment.

GRAVE REHEARSAL 36
They buried him in a mud-grave and then were caught in the web of fear.

VAMPIRE FLIES 42
Beware of the hungry pests that fly low with a sinister drone and then tear the flesh with relish in a bloody feast.

TERROR BELOW 46
Monster crabs drag blood-stained feet toward the sea and leave a red-stained skeleton chained to a post.

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THE ZOMBIE MANIKINS

CONRAD LEBARON WAS THE GREATEST MANIKIN DESIGNER IN THE WORLD, AND THOSE WHO SAW HIS CREATIONS SWORE THEY WERE ALIVE! BUT THEIR SURPRISE AND HORROR WOULD HAVE BEEN EVEN GREATER HAD THEY KNOWN THAT THESE MANIKINS WERE... **ZOMBIE MANIKINS!**

I'M CONRAD LEBARON, MISS WALTERS... I NEVER KNEW YOUR COUSIN -- BUT I ADMIRED HER FROM AFAR! GAZE ON THAT MARVELOUS FACE... TRACE THE LOVELY CONTOURS OF HER SCULPTURED BODY... WHY SHOULD DEATH HAVE HER?
IT WAS JUST A FEW DAYS AGO I SPOKE TO HER!

COME, MY DEAR... SHE IS AT PEACE... DON'T THINK OF HER IN ANY OTHER WAY!
THANK YOU, MR. LEBARON... I SHALL REMEMBER YOUR KIND WORDS -- ALWAYS...

THAT NEXT MORNING, CONRAD STOOD INSIDE HASTINGS' OFFICE...
I'VE ADMIRED YOUR WORK FOR YEARS, LEBARON... I'M DYING TO KNOW JUST HOW YOU CAN MAKE YOUR MANIKINS SO LIFE-LIKE... SO BEAUTIFUL!
THAT WILL HAVE TO REMAIN MY SECRET! HA, HA... SUFFICE TO SAY... YOU ARE PLEASED?

PLEASED? I'M SPEECHLESS WITH WONDER AT YOUR CREATIONS! I WANT YOU TO MAKE ME A MANIKIN FOR MY NEW BEAUTY SALON!
YOU CAN DECIDE MY FEE WHEN YOU SEE IT! I ASSURE YOU... THIS MANIKIN WILL BE AS BEAUTIFUL AS TAVLOVA!

SO THAT NIGHT, AT THE GRAVE OF ANNA TAVLOVA, A STRANGE FIGURE, DUG UP THE COFFIN AND RIPPED OFF THE LID! HE WAS CONRAD LEBARON...
AH... THERE YOU ARE, MY BEAUTY! SO VACANT-EYED... SO VIBRANT... SO GORGED WITH DEATH!!

AT LAST... YOU'RE MINE, ANNA... MINE! I'VE WAITED AN ETERNITY TO CAPTURE YOUR BEAUTY! HA, HA...

THREE DAYS LATER, HASTINGS' DEPARTMENT STORE OPENED... REGINA WALTERS HAD BEEN INVITED TO SING AT THE RECEPTION...
"NIGHT AND DAY... YOU ARE THE ONE..."

AND WHILE SHE WAS BEING CONGRATULATED, A VERY IMPATIENT HASTINGS WAS TALKING TO CONRAD...
AH... WHAT A MAGNIFICENT VOICE!
YES... YES... I'M SURE SHE HAS... LEBARON... I'M ANXIOUS TO SEE THE NEW MANIKIN CREATION NOW!!

WELL, THEN... BEHOLD!
EXQUISITE! IT'S BEAUTIFUL!

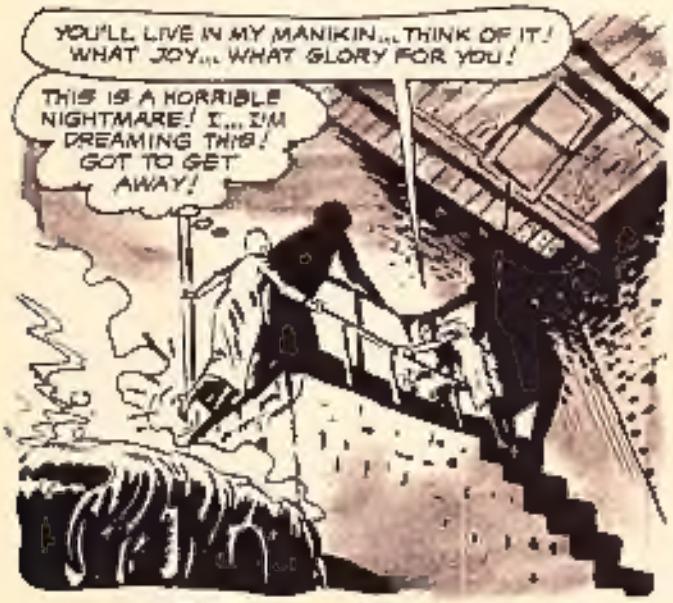
SUDDENLY, THE LARGE ASSEMBLAGE WAS DUMB WITH AWE! STARING AT THEM ON ITS PEDESTAL OF GLASS AND GOLD, WAS A LIFE-SIZE REPLICA OF... ANNA TAVLOVA!
IT... IT CAN'T BE...! BUT IT IS... ANNA!

LEBARON... I'M THRILLED BEYOND WORDS... YOU MUST MAKE ANOTHER ONE FOR ME! THIS WEEK!
I SHALL!! AND THE NEXT CREATION WILL PLEASE YOU EVEN MORE!
PLEASE... MR. LEBARON... WAIT!
EXIT

BUT THE GREAT DESIGNER STRODE SWIFTLY FROM THE ROOM! REGINA WAS WILD WITH CURIOSITY! THAT MANIKIN OF ANNA HAD BEEN SO LIFE-LIKE... SO DETAILED... SHE HAD TO SEE HIM...
I'VE RUNG THE BELL THREE TIMES... NO ONE ANSWERS... BUT HE MUST BE INSIDE! I HEAR SOUNDS... I'LL... WHAT... THE DOOR IS OPEN...
REGINA FOLLOWED THE SOUNDS TO THE CELLAR! A MUSTY ODOR OF FOUL AIR WAFTED TOWARDS HER NOSTRILS... BEFORE HER WAS A STUDIO THAT WAS COLD AND DANK...!
WHAT A STRANGE PLACE... I'D BETTER LEAVE...
BUT AS SHE TURNED TO GO, HER EYES SPOTTED A STILL FIGURE... A FIGURE WHOSE FLESH WAS MELTING FROM ITS CRUMBLING FRAMEWORK OF BONE... AND THE BLOOD FROZE IN HER VEINS!
OHNN!
AH! SO YOU HAVE COME!
I... I HAD TO SEE YOU TO FIND IF YOU COULD MAKE ME A SMALL REPLICA OF ANNA... THE DOOR WAS UNLOCKED... I HEARD YOU DOWN HERE!
NOW THAT YOU'RE HERE... YOU MAY AS WELL SEE MY LATEST CREATION...
WHY... IT'S ME! OH PLEASE... I... I'M FRIGHTENED OF IT... IT LOOKS SO... SO WEIRD!
OF COURSE, IT ISN'T FINISHED YET... BUT IT WILL BE... YES... VERY SOON!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
I MEAN THAT YOU SHALL HAVE TO POSE FOR ME LIKE ANNA! DID YOU THINK I COULD LET YOU LIVE AFTER YOU DISCOVERED MY SECRET OF MY MODELS' BODIES?
Y-YOU'RE MAD... MAD...!

GET AWAY FROM ME! I...I WAS SEEN COMING HERE! YOU'LL BE CAUGHT! PLEASE...LET ME GO!
DON'T BE AFRAID OF DEATH, REGINA! YOU CAN LIVE FOREVER AS ONE OF MY BEAUTIFUL STATUES!

SWIFTLY NOW, THE INHUMAN BEAST RUSHED TOWARDS HER...
LET ME OUT! LET ME OUT!
SCREAM ALL YOU LIKE MY DEAR! THIS STUDIO IS ESPECIALLY SOUND-PROOF FOR SUCH...AH... EMERGENCIES LIKE THIS! HA, HA!


YOU'LL LIVE IN MY MANIKIN...THINK OF IT! WHAT JOY...WHAT GLORY FOR YOU!
THIS IS A HORRIBLE NIGHTMARE! I...I'M DREAMING THIS! GOT TO GET AWAY!

BUT AS REGINA BACKED AWAY FROM THE LEERING MADMAN, HER FOOT CAUGHT ON ONE OF THE STUDIO SUPPORTS, AND
AHHEEEEE!

HA, HA, HA... SO YOU CHOOSE TO DIE BY TALIC ACID INSTEAD! NOW YOUR BODY WILL BE COMPLETELY DISSOLVED AND MIXED WITH PAINTS! HOW VERY CONVENIENT!

RUNNING TO THE HALF COMPLETED MANIKIN, CONRAD BEGAN TO WORK ON IT! HIS EYES GLEAMING WITH ECSTACY...
THIS WILL BE A MASTERPIECE! YES, REGINA...YOUR DEATH HAS TRULY INSPIRED ME!

HE WORKED FOR DAYS... SLOWLY THE LIFE-SIZED MANIKIN GREW INTO SHAPE... SLOWLY IT BEGAN TO BE FILLED WITH THE VIBRANT QUALITY OF REGINA'S PERSONALITY...

AT LAST... IT WAS FINISHED! A MANIKIN OF INCREDIBLE CONSTRUCTION--A VERITABLE WONDER — THE EXACT DOUBLE OF REGINA!

THERE, REGINA... WHO ELSE COULD HAVE KEPT YOUR YOUTH AND BEAUTY ENSHRINED IN CLOTH AND CLAY FOREVER? I HAVE KEPT MY PROMISE! IT IS A MASTERPIECE!

TWO DAYS LATER, AT THE FASHION SALON OF THE NEW DEPARTMENT STORE...

A WEEK AGO I PRESENTED YOU WITH A MODEL OF ANNA TAVLOVA... NOW I GIVE YOU AN EVEN GREATER CREATION!

INCREDIBLE! THE MAN IS A GENIUS!

AND BACK IN HASTINGS' OFFICE...

HERE IS THE CONTRACT, LEBARON... AT $35,000 A YEAR! SIGN IT, PLEASE!

I THINK I SHALL REST A WEEK OR SO BEFORE I START... WORKING FOR YOU!

THEN LEBARON HEARD A FAMILIAR TUNE...

"...NIGHT AND DAY... YOU ARE THE ONE..."

WHAT WAS THAT? THAT VOICE! SHE HAS COME BACK!!

WHO? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

BUT CONRAD DIDN'T BOTHER TO EXPLAIN AS HE RAN TOWARDS THE MANIKIN...
COME BACK! WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
SHE'S ALIVE... ALIVE!!

CONRAD RIPPED ASIDE THE DRAPE-DISPLAY CURTAINS... IT HAD NOT BEEN HIS IMAGINATION! SHE WAS MOCKING HIM!
STOP THAT SINGING, DO YOU HEAR?
SINGING? I HEAR NO...

SUDDENLY... CONRAD KNEW! HE HAD TO THROTTLE THOSE SOUNDS!
SHUT UP! I'LL ATTEND TO THIS! SHE'S TRYING TO TELL MY SECRET BUT I WON'T LET HER!
"NIGHT AND DAY... YOU ARE THE ONE... NIGHT AND..."
CRASH

NOW, HOWEVER, THE SINGING WAS FILLING THE ROOM... LOUDER... LOUDER... LOUDER...
"NIGHT AND DAY... YOU ARE THE ONE... THE ONE... THE ONE...
I'M NOT GOING TO LET YOU COME BACK, REGINA! STOP THAT SINGING! LISTEN TO ME... I SAID STOP IT! STOP IT! I'LL...

YAAAAAAHH!!!

A FEW MOMENTS LATER...
MR. LEBARON INSISTED THAT THE MANIKIN WAS SINGING!
HE MUST HAVE SLIPPED ON THIS LIQUID... HMM... STRANGE! SMELLS LIKE TALIC ACID... IT DROPPED FROM THE MANIKIN!

BUT THEY WERE NEVER TO FIND OUT NOW! THEY WERE NEVER TO KNOW HOW A MAD-MAN'S DREAM FOR FAME CAUSED HIS OWN DEATH IN THE SAME IRONIC WAY AS THAT OF HIS MANIKIN MODEL!

THE STRANGE CORPSE

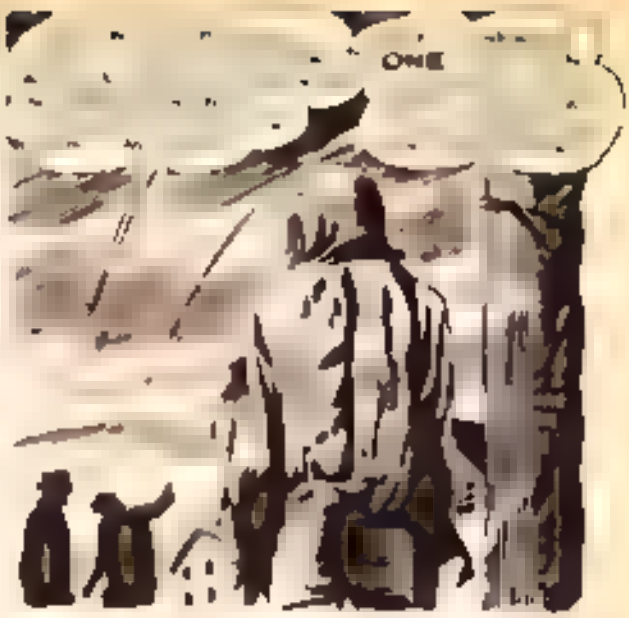
LEFT
WHY

EVIL
DEATH

COME BACK!

HORROR

BLANKED STIFF!


ONE

YIIIII!
O GREAT HANNAH!

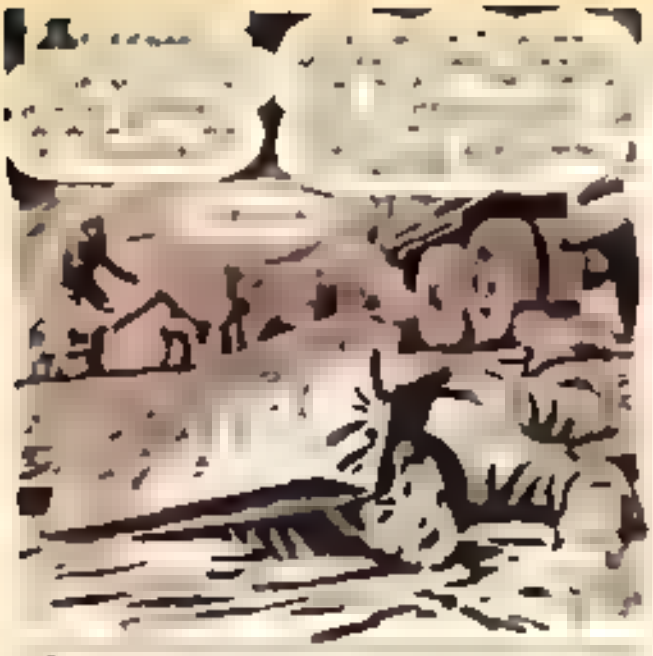
HUMAN HELP!
YYEOW!

YARRG!

DEAD

IT WAS AWFUL ..
AWFUL ! THE
THING CAME OUTA
THE SHALLOWS AND
GRABBED EUNICE!

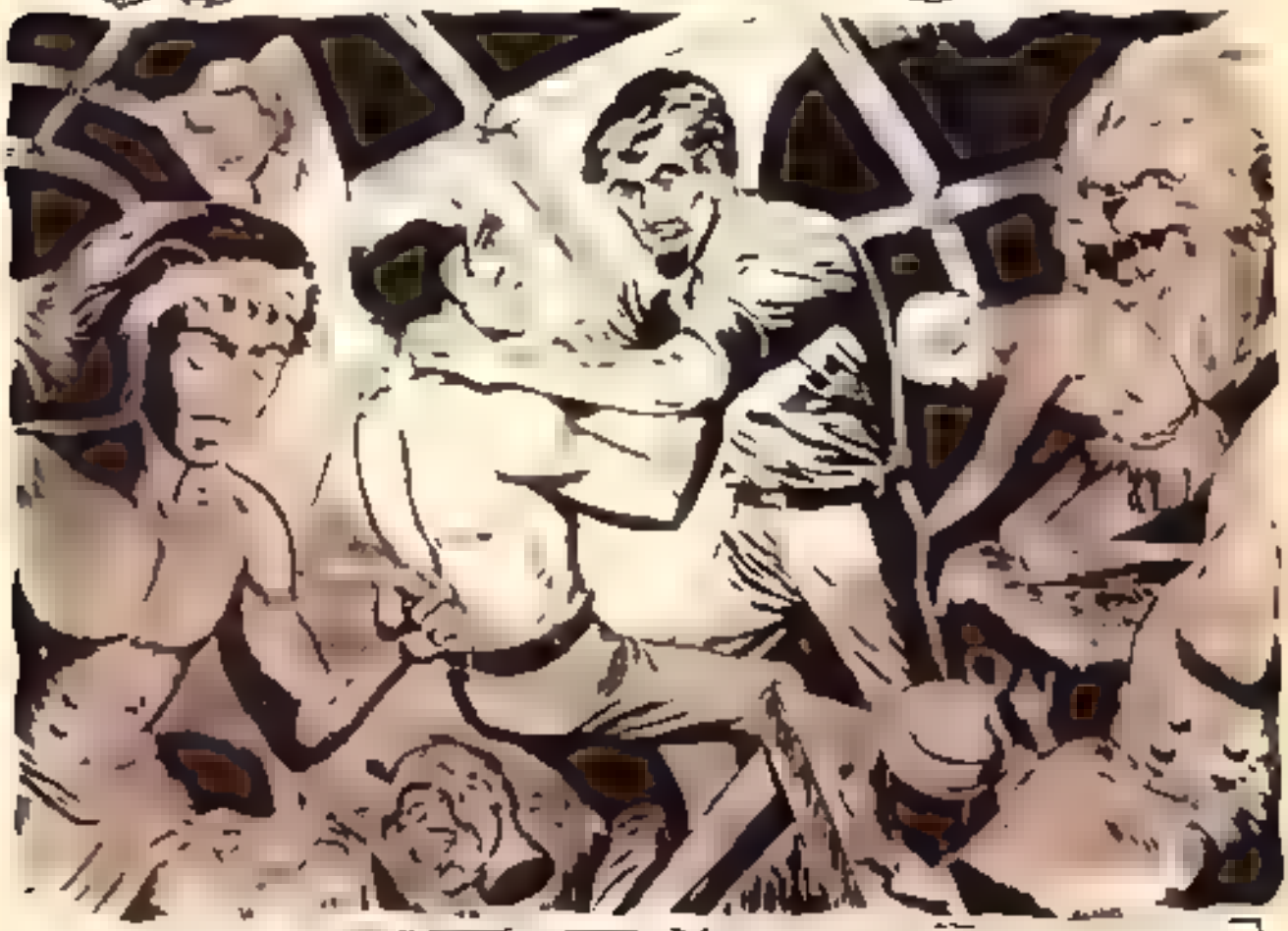
YE GOODWILL!



YIPE!
NEVER
MURDER!

ONCE HE'D BEEN A SUCCESSFUL SCULPTOR BUT NOW HE WAS FINISHED! HE'D LOST HIS [illegible] AND LEONARD'S MISERY LED TO DESPERATION AND TO MURDER! VOODOO AND SECRET FORMULAS BROUGHT LEONARD TO A

VOODOO HORROR



OUR STORY OPENS IN THE SALON OF A HIGH PRICED ART GALLERY

EDWARD CANE IS THE GREATEST SCULPTOR ALIVE LOOK AT THESE FINE BRONZE MASTERPIECES

And BECAUSE THE PUBLIC ADMIRED HIS WORK LEONARD ADMIRED THE PUBLIC

SEE HOW THE WORLD FLOCKS TO THE WORK OF THE MASTER?

YES LEONARD YOU'RE A GENIUS

THE FOOLS! IDIOTS! I'M STILL THE GREATEST SCULPTOR IN THE WORLD!
WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO ME? I'M RUINED! DONE FOR! THE ART LOVERS LAUGH AT MY WORK

W-WHAT WILL BECOME OF ME? MY SCULPTURE IS THE ONLY THING I KNOW AND NOW THAT'S GONE!
WITHOUT SUCCESS HE LOST ALL HIS FRIENDS AND ALL HIS MONEY!
HE RODE DOWNHILL FAST
DIANA ALL I WANT IS TEN DOLLARS PLEASE!
GET OUT OF HERE YOU'RE A FAILURE LEONARD AND I DESPISE FAILURES
LADY, COULD... COULD YOU GIVE A HUNGRY MAN SOMETHING TO EAT?

HE DRIFTED FROM COUNTRY TO COUNTRY ENDING UP ON THE SHORES OF HAITI
AND IF YA EVER TRY STEALING A MY BOAN I'LL BREAK YOUR NECK YA LOUSY BUM
OOH
LEONARD WALKED SLOWLY DOWN THE PICTURESQUE STREETS... LITTLE KNOWING OR CARING WHERE HE WENT OR DID
WONDER WHAT THE CONNECTION IS ALL ABOUT IAHEAD

THE COMMOTION WAS A FIGHT BETWEEN AN AMERICAN TOURIST AND A NATIVE HAITIAN...
HOW DARE YOU TALK BACK TO ME! I OUGHT
PLEASE MEESTER I MEAN NO HARM
LOOK, YOU'RE A GUEST IN THIS MAN'S COUNTRY YOU HAVE NO RIGHT TO YELL AT HIM! NOW BEAT IT
AN-N-I I WAS ONLY KIDDIN
THE CROWD MELTED AND LEONARD WAS LEFT ALONE WITH THE NATIVE.
I THANK YOU VERY MUCH SIR! I AM KAJAL, THE WITCH DOCTOR OF KUMA! WOULD YOU DO ME THE HONOR OF EATING AT MY HUMBLE TABLE?
LEONARD ACCEPTED THE INVITATION
THANKS FOR THE MEAL I REALLY NEEDED
YOU ARE VERY WELCOME TO STAY AS LONG AS YOU WISH
AND SO LEONARD STAYED IN KUMA AND WAS ABLE TO FORGET THE PAST
I WON'T EVER FORGET YOUR KINDNESS
KAJAL BE EQUAL IN REPAYING KINDNESS WITH KINDNESS
WHY IS THAT HUT ALL DECORATED KAJAL? WHAT'S IN IT?
IT'S A TRIBAL SECRET MEESTER LEONARD PLEASE DO NOT ASK
AND DO NOT EVER ENTER THE SACRED HUT FORBIDDEN!

KAJAL WAS SURE FIXED
GET IN AND
WITH ENOUGH
MAKE A NEW START
HERE? I-I MEAN
STATUES BLOOD LORD
PERFECT!
PLEASE MASTER
QUESTIONS
DON'T BE A
THESE STATUES
MUST
YOU
VAN VAMPS
ARE STATUES
KAJAL WHAT ARE
LIQUIDS DON'T
STONE!

KAJAL INSISTED THAT THE SECRET LIQUID COULD TURN DEAD PEOPLE INTO STONE LEONARD REALIZED THERE WAS ONLY ONE WAY TO TEST IT;

SO A COLORLESS LIQUID TURNS THE DEAD INTO STONE EH? WE'LL SOON SEE MY FRIEND

NO! NO! ARGGHH!

AN INSTANT LATER KAJAL WAS DEAD!

IF WHAT KAJAL SAYS IS TRUE I'LL BE THE WORLD'S GREATEST SCULPTOR

LEONARD ADMINISTERED THE WATER LIKE LIQUID TO KAJAL

IT WORKS! HE'S TURNING INTO STONE! I CAN GO BACK TO AMERICA WITH THIS FORMULA I'LL BE A SUCCESS ONCE MORE

LEONARD TOOK THE CASK OF MAGIC LIQUID AND RETURNED TO AMERICA... SOON HIS "SCULPTURE" AMAZED THE ART WORLD.

WITHIN 6 MONTHS HE HELD HIS FIRST ONE MAN SHOW

THE LOOK SO ALIVE SO HUMAN!

BUT TO CONTINUE LEONARD NEEDED BODIES... DEAD BODIES!!

THAT CEMETERY BODIES STATUES!

THE MONEY POURED IN AND LEONARD STARTED LIVING LIKE A KING

IT'S A WONDERFUL STUDIO I'LL CANCEL ONLY SIX HUNDRED A MONTH

IT WILL DO NICELY MR BROOKS I'LL TAKE IT

YES, LEONARD HAD EVERYTHING HE NEEDED TO MAKE HIM HAPPY INCLUDING CYNTHIA HIS NEW ASSISTANT..

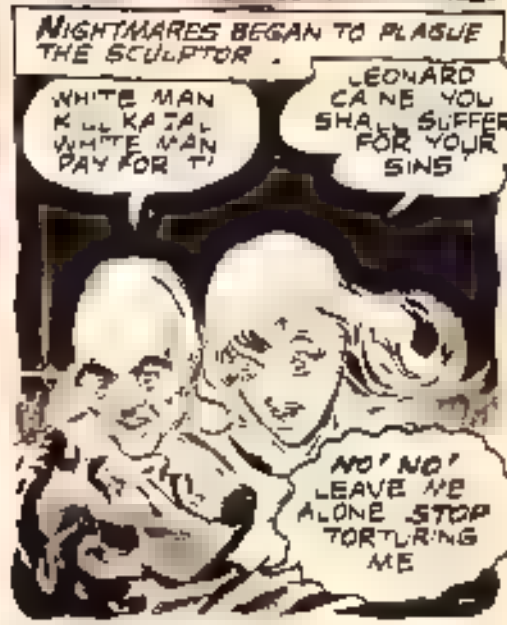
THIS ONE WILL BE FINE! HA-HA! I'VE GOT TO WARN CYNTHIA NEVER TO ENTER MY STUDIO IF SHE KNEW HOW I "SCULPTED" MY STATUES I'LL BE FINISHED!

AREN'T YOU GOING TO ENTER THE CONTEST FOR THE WORLD'S MOST BEAUTIFUL STATUE? THERE'S A $50,000 PRIZE!
YES... I JUST HAVE TO FIND THE RIGHT MODEL!

LEONARD ALREADY HAD PICKED OUT HIS "MODEL" AND HE KNEW THAT TO GET HER... IT WOULD MEAN MURDER!
LAURINE MURRAY... TOP MODEL OF THE CITY! YOU'LL MAKE A BEAUTIFUL STATUE MY DEAR

HE WAITED UNTIL SHE REACHED A DARK, DESOLATE STREET AND...

AND TWO MONTHS LATER, LEONARD WAS AWARDED FIRST PLACE IN THE CONTEST FOR THE WORLD'S MOST BEAUTIFUL STATUE.
YOU WERE LUCKY TO GET LAURINE MURRAY AS A MODEL BEFORE SHE DISAPPEARED, MR. CAINE! NOBODY KNOWS WHAT HAPPENED TO HER!
LOOKS JUST LIKE HER!


NIGHTMARES BEGAN TO PLAGUE THE SCULPTOR.
WHITE MAN KILL KAJAL WHITE MAN PAY FOR IT!
LEONARD CAINE YOU SHALL SUFFER FOR YOUR SINS!
NO! NO! LEAVE ME ALONE! STOP TORTURING ME

W-WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH ME? W-WHY DO THESE DREAMS HAUNT ME EVERY NIGHT? THEY'RE DRIVING ME CRAZY!

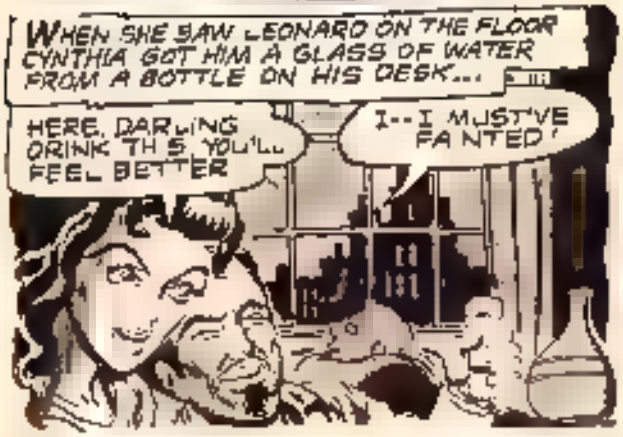
M-MAYBE IF I PRACTICE I COULD DO MY OWN SCULPTURE AGAIN! I COULD STOP USING THE LIQUID AND...

NO MURDERER YOU CAN NEVER VINDICATE YOURSELF
YOU'RE DOOMED, DOOMED!

STOP T GO AWAY... UGGHH!
YOU WON T ESCAPE OUR JUSTICE

WHILE OUTSIDE THE STUDIO
LEONARD IT'S LEONARD'S VOICE! W-WHAT'S WRONG?
STOP IT! GO AWAY... UGGHHH!

FOR AN INSTANT CYNTHIA HESITATED. LEONARD HAD WARNED HER NEVER TO ENTER THE STUDIO.
TH S 'S AN EMERGENCY! I'M GO NG IN


WHEN SHE SAW LEONARD ON THE FLOOR CYNTHIA GOT HIM A GLASS OF WATER FROM A BOTTLE ON HIS DESK...
HERE, DARLING DRINK TH S YOU'LL FEEL BETTER
I--I MUST'VE FA NTED!

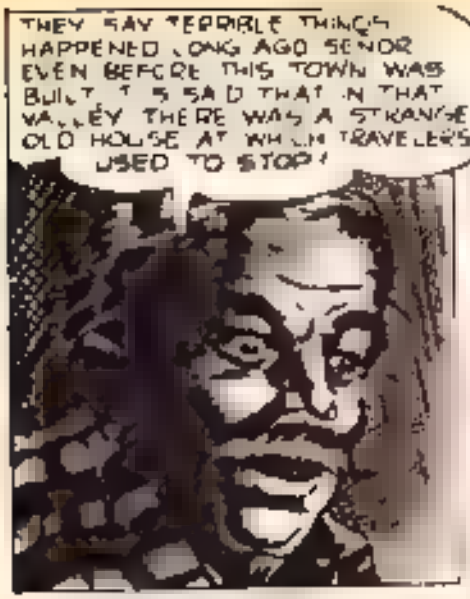
W-WHERE DID YOU GET THAT WATER FROM.. WHERE?
DARLING DON'T GET SO EXCITED I GOT IT FROM THE BOTTLE ON YOUR DESK..

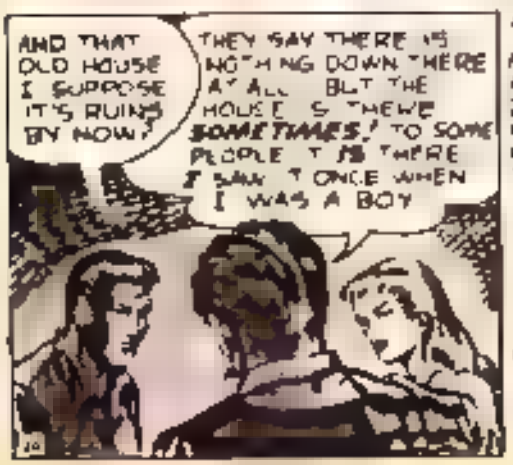
LEONARD STRUGGLED TO HIS FEET, TOO LATE! HE KNEW WHAT WAS IN THAT BOTTLE. THE SECRET FORMULA OF THE KUMA NATIVES!

THIS IS LEONARD'S PUNISH-MENT THIS IS HIS FINAL STATUE..
THE END

WEB OF TERROR
AN ENTOMOLOGIST /
ROAD OF NO RETURN!

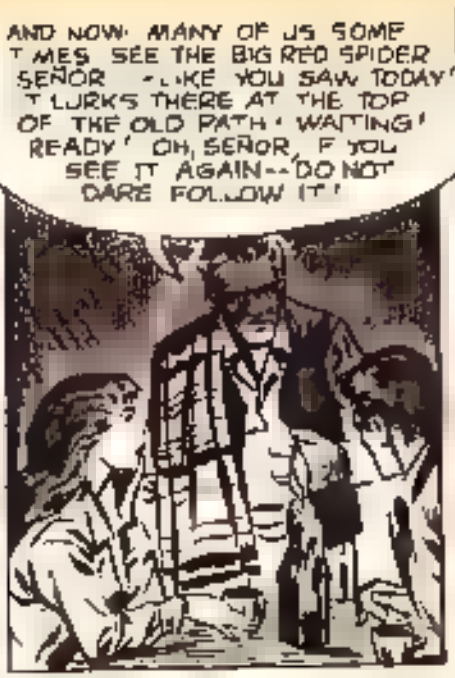
ELLIE DIDN'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT ENTOMOLOGY BUT DAMON LOVED IT AND SO SHE DID, TOO--
LOOK A FIELD
IS THAT TS NAME DAMON?
AND ON THE WAY BACK TO THE VILLAGE THAT AFTERNOON
HOLY MACKERAL! WHAT A BIG ONE! B G AS A
THEY WERE STAYING AT A LITTLE SPAN SH
THE SEÑOR AND SEÑORA HAD A SUCCESSFUL DAY I HOPE?
YOU NO SPIDER?





"I HAD MISTAKEN MY WAY. I DO NOT KNOW I HAD TAKEN THE ROAD OF NO RETURN WHEN I SAW THE HOUSE. I WAS VERY FRIGHTENED!

"THEN ALL AT ONCE THERE WAS A PUFF OF RED LIGHT LIKE AN EXPLOSION WHICH WAS SOUNDLESS! AND WHAT I WAS SEEING WAS GONE. I RAN AS FAST AS I COULD."

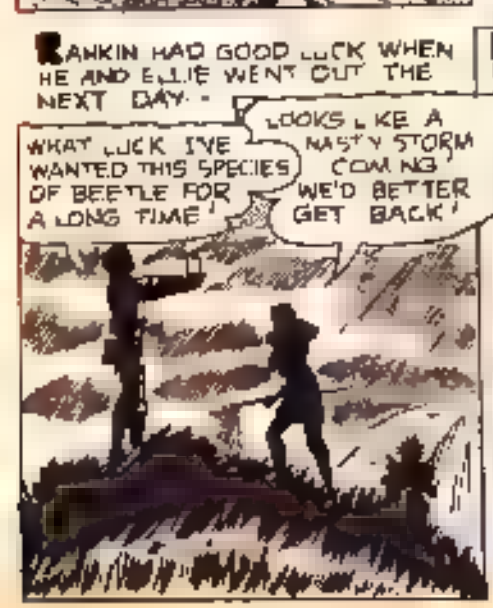

AND NOW: MANY OF US SOMETIMES SEE THE BIG RED SPIDER SEÑOR - LIKE YOU SAW TODAY! IT LURKS THERE AT THE TOP OF THE OLD PATH! WAITING! READY! OH, SEÑOR, IF YOU SEE IT AGAIN--DO NOT DARE FOLLOW IT!

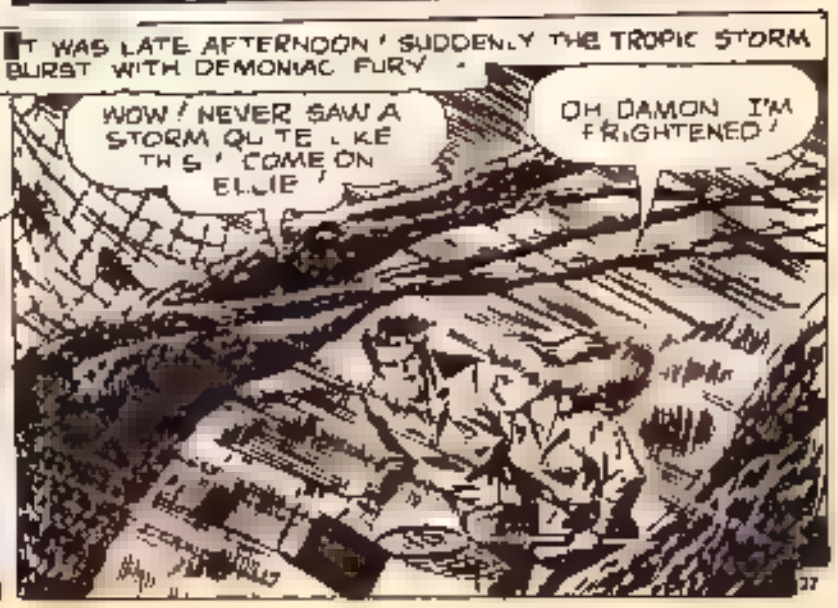
JUST A TALE OF SUPERSTICIOUS NATIVES "DAMON THOUGHT! LATER WHEN HE AND ELLIE HAD GONE TO THEIR ROOM --
IT'S JUST SOME UNKNOWN TYPE OF RED SPIDER ELLIE! I SUPPOSE THAT TALE GOT STARTED MANY YEARS AGO
DAMON IF WE EVER SEE IT LET'S NOT TRY TO CATCH IT!

THE WIFE OF DAMON RANKIN AFRAID OF A SPIDER ELLIE I'M ASHAMED OF YOU
D DON'T MAKE FUN OF ME, DAMON, PLEASE!

OKAY, ELLIE DEAR! MAYBE WE DIDN'T SEE ANY SUCH SPIDER ANYHOW! YOU KNOW ELLIE, I CAN SEE HOW THESE NATIVES HAPPENED TO COOK UP A TALE LIKE THAT!

WE ALWAYS THINK OF SPIDERS AS TREACHEROUS AND LURING--LIKE "COME INTO MY PARLOUR SAID THE SPIDER TO THE FLY!"
DAMON, DON'T UGH!


RANKIN HAD GOOD LUCK WHEN HE AND ELLIE WENT OUT THE NEXT DAY -
WHAT LUCK I'VE WANTED THIS SPECIES OF BEETLE FOR A LONG TIME!
LOOKS LIKE A NASTY STORM COMING WE'D BETTER GET BACK!


IT WAS LATE AFTERNOON! SUDDENLY THE TROPIC STORM BURST WITH DEMONIAC FURY -
WOW! NEVER SAW A STORM QUITE LIKE THIS! COME ON ELLIE!
OH DAMON I'M FRIGHTENED!

BUT KNOWING IT, THEY WERE ON THE

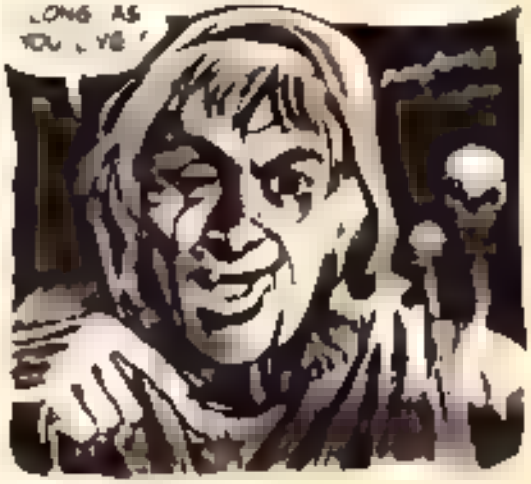
'S A NATIVE HOUSE!
'LL TAKE SHELTER!
LAST LONG!

ELLIE! RUN! NOW!
IT-IT'S TURNING INTO ...
ELLIE! WHERE ARE YOU? RUN!
MA! MA! WE'RE GOING NOW... ROAD OF NO RETURN!
JUST A PUFF OF RED LIGHT LIKE A SOUNDLESS EXPLOSION IN THE TROPICAL VALLEY
THEN THERE WAS NOTHING NOTHING BUT ANOTHER UNFATHOMABLE MYSTERY OF THE GREAT UNKNOWN!

UNDER THE GUISE OF CIVIC DUTY JOHN ADAMS HID HIS CRUEL HEART BUT THERE ARE THOSE WHO CAN SEE THROUGH EVIL AND FIND JUSTICE IN

WITCH'S REVENGE

JOHN ADAMS WAS A LAW ABIDING MAN WHEN THE AUTHORITIES BANNED BLACK MAGIC RITES ON HIS SMALL ISLAND. HE THOUGHT OUT HIS DUTY VERY CAREFULLY AND THEN DECIDED HIS ACTION LONG HAD HE SUSPECTED OLD YVONNE OF WITCH PRACTICES AND BESIDES SHE WAS CARELESS ABOUT PAYING HER RENT.



MASON CALLED IT AN UNPLEASANT TASK TO HIS CONSCIENCE BUT THEN SHRUGGED IT OFF INTO NOTHINGNESS AS HE BASKED IN HIS OWN HAPPINESS. BUT ALL WAS NOT SO WELL WITH OLD YVONNE. THAT RAINY NIGHT DEATH HAD ALREADY SEIZED HER SPANDRILD AND NOW HER DAUGHTER LAY STRICKEN...

ONE SHORT HOUR AFTER DEATH CLAIMED ANOTHER OF YVONNE'S SMALL BROOD, OUT IN THE STORMY NIGHT, A STRANGE SICKNESS SUDDENLY SEIZED MASON'S SON.

I HAVE NEVER SEEN THE LIKES OF THIS BEFORE!

OH, DARLING, WILL THE DOCTOR NEVER GET HERE?

SOON, DEAR HE'S RUSHING OVER!

I'M STUMPED! I HAVE NO IDEA OF JUST WHAT AILS THE BOY... I'LL HAVE TO STUDY THE CASE LONGER

BUT ONLY A FEW HOURS AGO HE WAS IN PERFECT HEALTH!

WHAT SHALL WE DO?

WE'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING! HE CAN'T DIE! DON'T LET ANYTHING HAPPEN TO MY BABY! IF HE DIES I WANT TO DIE TOO!

NOW, NOW, MRS MASON, THERE'S NO SIGN OF THE CHILD DYING. HE IS MANIFESTING CHANGES WHICH I CAN'T ACCOUNT FOR

SHH! THE BABY WILL HEAR YOU! COME, DEAR, LET'S SEE THAT YOU GET SOME REST!

ALL RIGHT

WHAT IS IT! WHAT'S WRONG?

SOMETHING TERRIBLE HAS HAPPENED TO THE LITTLE ONE SOMETHING **TERRIBLE!** IT'S A CURSE!

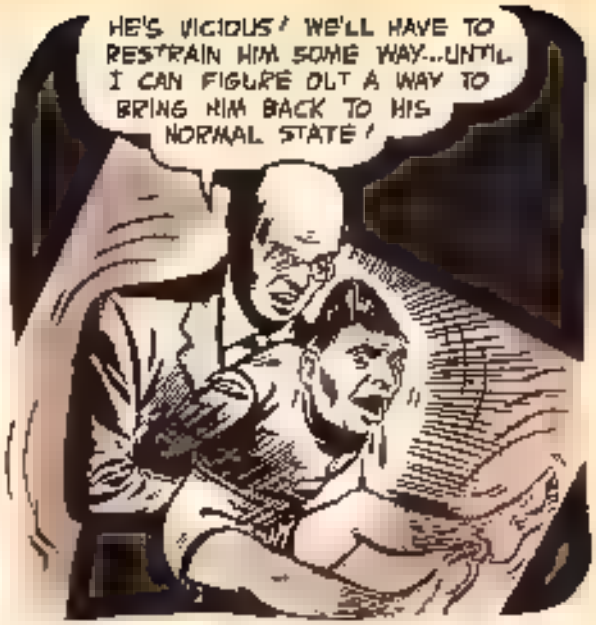
NO, NO, IT CANNOT BE! DON'T LOOK DEAR THIS IS NOT TRUE!

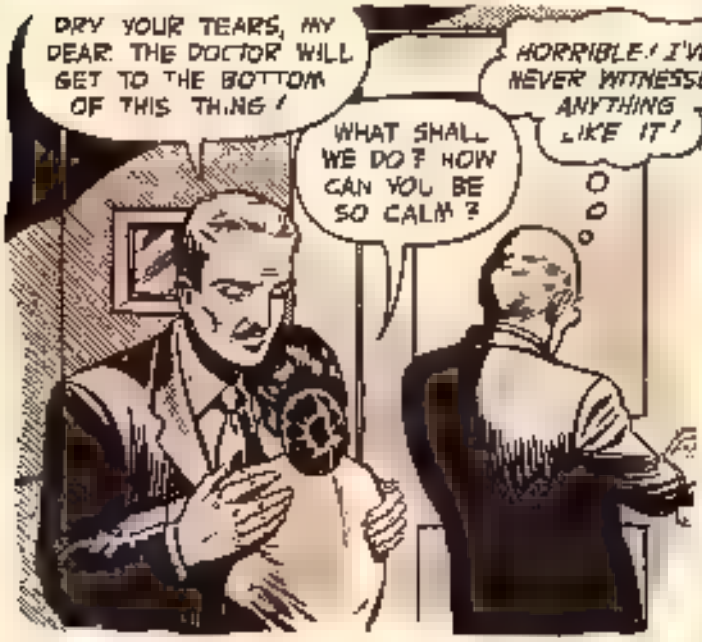
OLD YVONNE'S CURSE!

NICE DADDY!

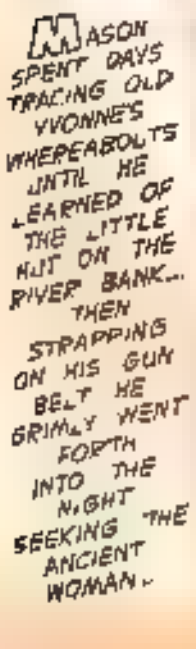
I-I THINK I'M GOING TO FAINT.

CONJUR DOINGS! THE BOY HAS BEEN CURSED! SUCH THINGS HAVE BEEN KNOWN ON THIS ISLAND...
NO! THIS IS SOME GHASTLY TRICK! IT CANNOT BE REAL!


HE'S VICIOUS! WE'LL HAVE TO RESTRAIN HIM SOME WAY...UNTIL I CAN FIGURE OUT A WAY TO BRING HIM BACK TO HIS NORMAL STATE!


DRY YOUR TEARS, MY DEAR. THE DOCTOR WILL GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS THING!
WHAT SHALL WE DO? HOW CAN YOU BE SO CALM?
HORRIBLE! I'VE NEVER WITNESSED ANYTHING LIKE IT!

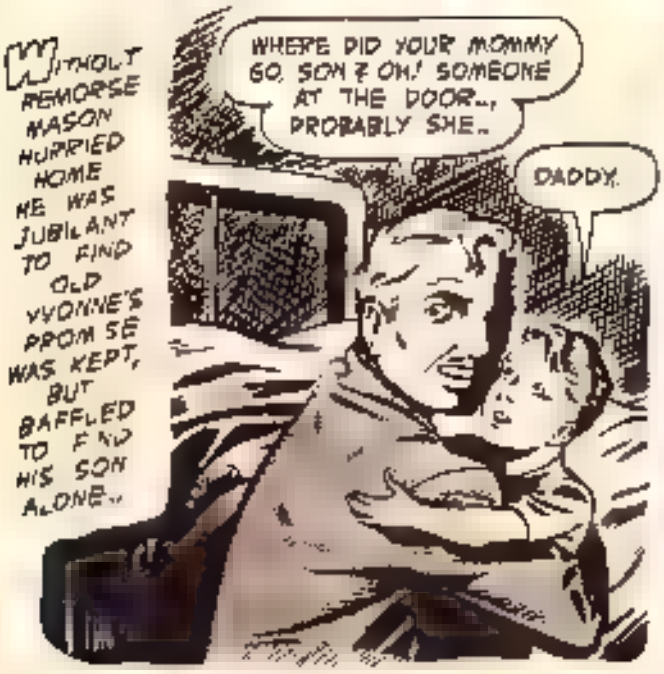
OLD YVONNE! I MUST GO TO HER AND HAVE THIS CURSE BROKEN! ONLY SHE WOULD HAVE REASON TO DO THIS! SHE CARRIED OUT HER THREAT!


MASON SPENT DAYS TRACING OLD YVONNE'S WHEREABOUTS UNTIL HE LEARNED OF THE LITTLE HUT ON THE RIVER BANK... THEN STRAPPING ON HIS GUN BELT HE GRIMLY WENT FORTH INTO THE NIGHT SEEKING THE ANCIENT WOMAN.

YOU CURSED MY SON! TAKE IT BACK, OR I'LL KILL YOU! SPEAK, YOU WITCH!
I DIDN'T CURSE HIM...AND KILLING ME WILL BE NO CURE!

HOW CAN I BRING HIM BACK TO HIS NORMAL SELF? I'VE GOT TO, DO YOU UNDERSTAND?
THERE IS A WAY YES, OLD YVONNE KNOWS A WAY... I WILL TELL YOU...

HELPLESS AGAINST AN UNKNOWN POWER. THE ONCE RUTHLESS, COLD-HEARTED MAN BECAME A WHIMPERING BEGGAR OF OLD YVONNE'S GRACES. LOOKING INTO HER ANCIENT HATE FILLED EYES HE PROMISED ANYTHING AND SHE GAVE HIM DIRECTIONS.
THIS IS THE THIRD NIGHT AFTER THE FULL MOON AS I WAS TOLD.. AND, YES! I HEAR THE CHANTING! THE RITES ARE ON!
FANTASTIC! DEVIL DANCING! IT'S LIKE ANOTHER WORLD!
HA! THERE YOU ARE! WE WAITED FOR YOU. THE SACRIFICE HAS NOT YET BEEN MADE. IT IS UP TO YOU. ARE YOU WILLING TO GIVE UP A LIFE FOR A LIFE?
A LIFE FOR A LIFE? BUT WHOSE?
WHAT DOES IT MATTER? YOU ASKED NO QUESTIONS WHEN YOU CAUSED MY LOVED ONES TO DIE..
ALL RIGHT, I'LL DO IT!
A GIRL! GOOD THING I CAN'T SEE HER FACE! IT WOULD SICKEN ME
HA, HA! HOW EVIL MULTIPLIES ITSELF! WHAT IS A LIFE TO HIM AS LONG AS HE GAINS WHAT HE WISHES! BUT THERE IS A PRICE.. OH, YES! LIVES ARE NOT FREE!
AIIEEE



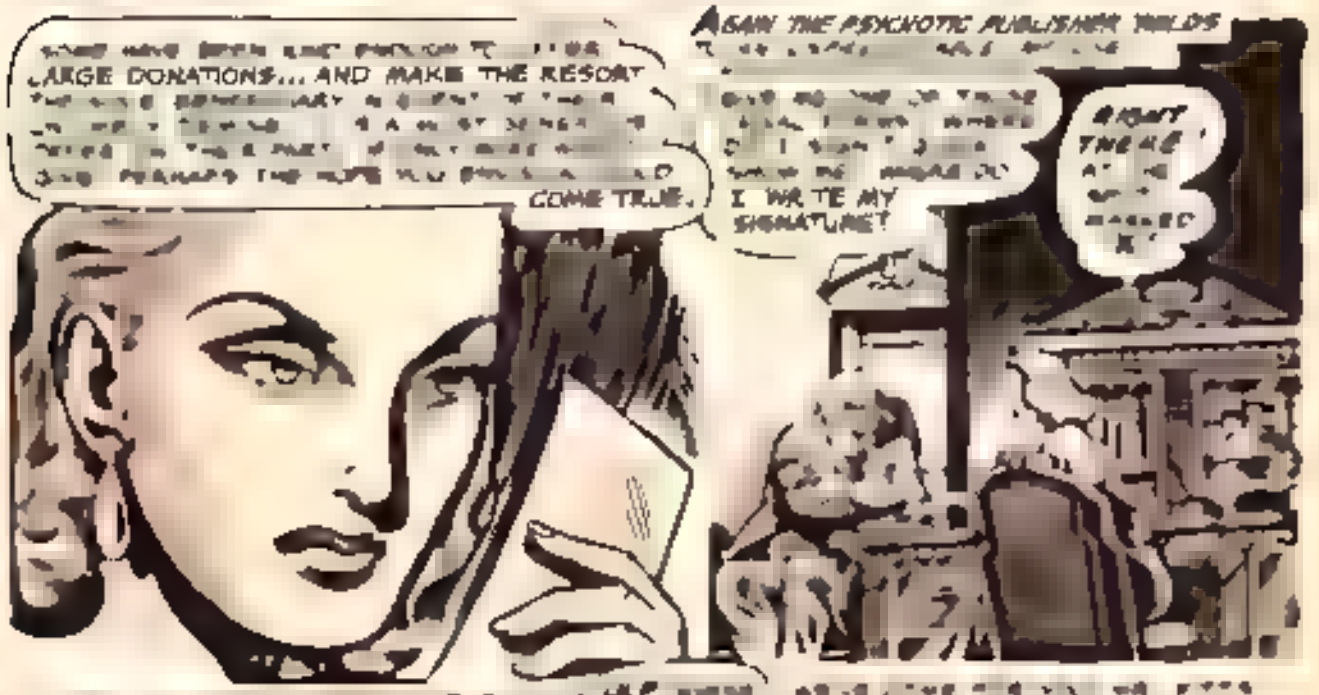
NEVER HAD THE ISLAND SEEN A MAN SO GRIEF-STRICKEN INDEED. POOR MR MASON QUITE LOST HIS REASONING AND HAD TO BE TAKEN TO A LOCAL ASYLUM AS THE YEARS PASSED AND THE GUARDS CHANGED, HIS SAD TALE WAS STILL WHISPERED ABOUT

IT WAS ONE EASY STEP FOR B.S. FITTS, EGOMANIACAL YELLOW TABLOID PUBLISHER FROM JOURNALISTIC MUD-SLINGING TO HEALTH RESORT MUD-BATHING. FITTS FAILED TO REALIZE, HOWEVER THAT THE NEXT EASY STEP WOULD LEAD TO THE GRAVE
GRAVE REHEARSAL
THROW H M INTO THE MUD - GRAVE!
NO! NO! I M AN IMPORTANT MAN OF CONSEQUENCE YOU CAN'T DO THIS TO.. AA-AAAAAAGHHH!!
B. S. FITTS, PUBLISHER OF THE DAILY WHISPER A FOUL, FILTHY, BUT HIGHLY PROFITABLE SCANDAL SHEET ADMONISHES A CRINGING EDITOR..
PIG-BRAIN! YOU KNOW MY ORDERS GIVE 'EM SENSATION! CRAM EVERY SENTENCE WITH LURID DETAILS GLUT THE PUBLIC WITH ACCOUNTS OF FIENDISH MURDERS CHEATING WIVES, VICE EXPOSES, ETC .. THE SWINE LOVE IT!
AND WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN PRINTING, PIG BRAIN? - DECENT NEWS STORIES!! WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO DO, FOOL? RUIN THIS SHEET? YOU'RE FIRED!!
PLEASE MR FITTS YOUR DOCTOR WARNED YOU NOT TO OVER-EXCITE YOURSELF! YOU MUST TRY TO CONTROL YOUR TEMPER!
GET OUT-TTT YOU SL MY SNEAK BEFORE I BREAK YOU N TWO! OUT-TTT! OH-HH. M-MY SIDE
SOMEONE GET A DOCTOR "B. S." HAS HAD AN ATTACK! SOMEONE GET HELP!

TOO! WHO'S PAYING YOU
WASHINGTON!
DEAD
ANSWER ME, MAN,
A PACKAGE ABROAD IT'S FROM
SHALL I OPEN IT FOR YOU, SIR?
MUD! IS SOMEBODY CRAZY! WAIT, THERE'S A NOTE WITH IT
GOOD HEAVENS, SIR! YOUR FACE
Y-YOUR FACE?
STOP GAPING. CHARTER A PRIVATE PLANE FOR ME! I'M FLYING TO TRANSVANIA AT ONCE! I FEEL FINE SPLENDID! WELL, DON'T JUST STAND THERE
EXPECTING ME?
BUT OF COURSE! WELCOME TO TRANSVANIA, MR. FITTS. I KNEW
IT'S WHAT YOU HAVE

I DIDN'T FLY ALL THE WAY TO
STOP
TAKE THEM OFF
HELP
WORDLESSLY, HIS ESCORTS LEAD
GRAVES
WAIT, LET'S
HELP!
THROW
STILL ON YOUR
COULD BRING SUCH

STEADILY, HIS ENTHUSIASM FOR THE STRANGE HEALTH TREATMENT RISES.
OF THE MUD'S REMARK-
FOR YEARS! IT'S A MIRACLE!


LARGE DONATIONS... AND MAKE THE RESORT
COME TRUE.
AGAIN THE PSYCHOTIC PUBLISHER WIELDS
I WRITE MY SIGNATURE!
RIGHT THERE!

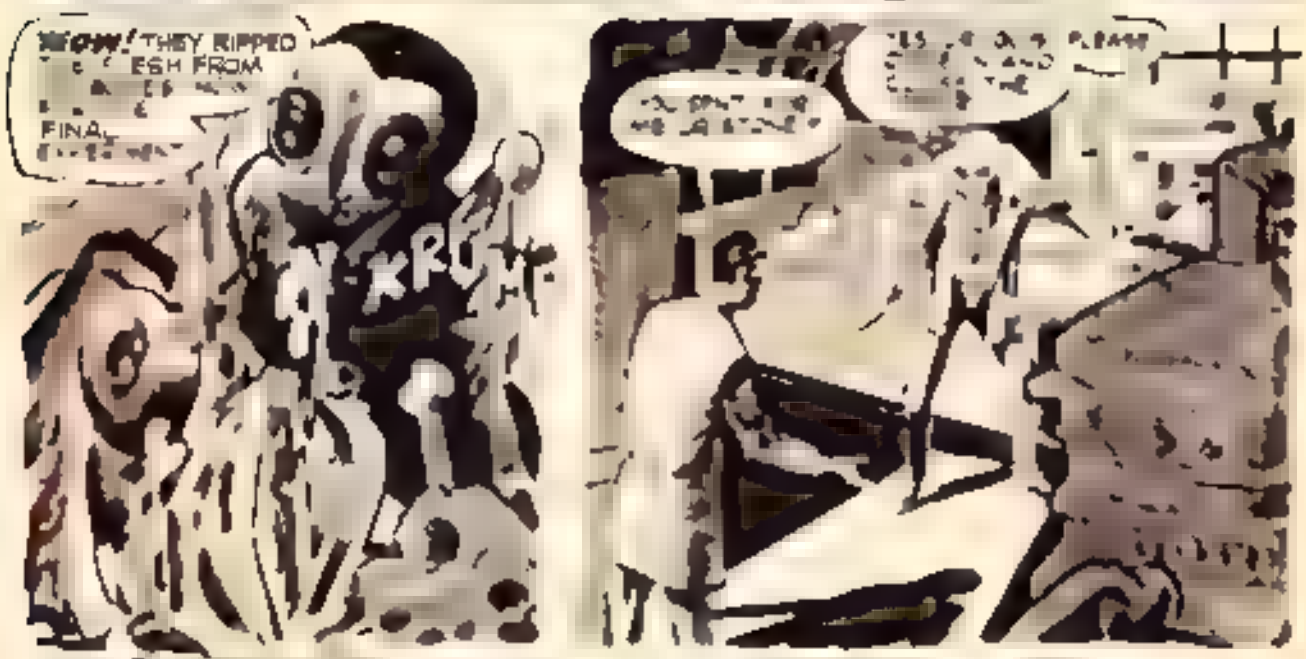
RETURN THE FORM TO ME TOMORROW. I DON'T KNOW WHAT CAME OVER ME. I MUST LEARN TO EXERCISE MORE CAUTION.
YOU
SPECIAL TREATMENT!
SPECIAL

INTO THE HOLE! GET IN, B.S. FITTS!
BUT... IT'S EMPTY! THERE'S NOTHING IN IT! WHY SHOULD I CRAWL INTO AN EMPTY HOLE? IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE!
CEMENT! YOU'RE FILLING THE HOLE W-WITH CEMENT!! UH-HHH!
SHUT THAT STUPID, EVER CLACKETING TONGUE.
LET ME OUT OF THIS, Y-YOU FIENDS!
YOU TAMPERED ME?
GO NG! TELL TELL ME, MADAME SATIN! JAS
YOU CONSIDER YOURSELF PENNY, AND IT
OUTWITTED YOU!

WORMS FOR COMPANY..
NOW THE GRISLY BUSINESS S AT AN END. FITTS RICHES
BE BETTER OFF WITHOUT THE SWINE, IT WAS A PLEASURE TO MURDER
OUT OF THE MUD-GRAVES THEY SPILL, PHANTOMS INTENT ON VENGEANCE LED BY THE ANGRY SPECTRE OF B.S. FITTS.
WITCH PAY FOR HER CRIMES! FOLLOW
ME. IT'S—(SPUTTER)— FILLING MY MOUTH... GAGGING ME! GAAAAA!
BUT MOST ASTOUNDING OF ALL... IN NEWS ROOM OF THE DAILY WHISPER
HOLE THE NEXT MORNING.. AND PROTRUDING FROM IT WAS..
WEARING THE DEATH-SKULL RING OF MADAME SATIN! LOOK! THE DEATH GRINNING!
THE FULL HORRIBLE DETAILS OF FITTS DEATH... AND THE STORY S SIGNED BY
THE PRESS

THE SPIDER AND THE FLY: TRADITIONAL ENEMIES ETERNALLY SEEK TO DESTROY EACH OTHER YET THE SPIDER ALWAYS WAITS IN ITS TREACHEROUS WEB BUT SUDDENLY A LOW AND MONSTER DRONE OF THE
VAMPIRE FLIES
KILL HIM! NO ONE SHALL EVER LAUGH AT ME AGAIN - NO ONE!
EEEAAA
ONE NIGHT IN THE SUPER MENTAL LABORATORY OF OR STONE
LAUGH AT MY EXPERIMENTS WILL THEY? THEY MAY LIVE TO REGRET - LET ME SEE WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THIS FLY AND SPIDER ARE LOCKED IN
WHAT IN -- THE FLY IS DEVOURING THE SPIDER! THIS IS A REVERSAL OF THE NORM
CRUNCH CRUNCH

IF THIS FLY CAN RIP A SPIDER TO
THEN IT HAS THE
TIAL OF A DEADLY WEAPON
LITTLE DEMONS SOON
WARPED
LATER!
FAST YOU MUST BE HUNGRY!
THIS GUINEA PIG SHOULD
FATTEN YOUR
BUZZ
BUZZ

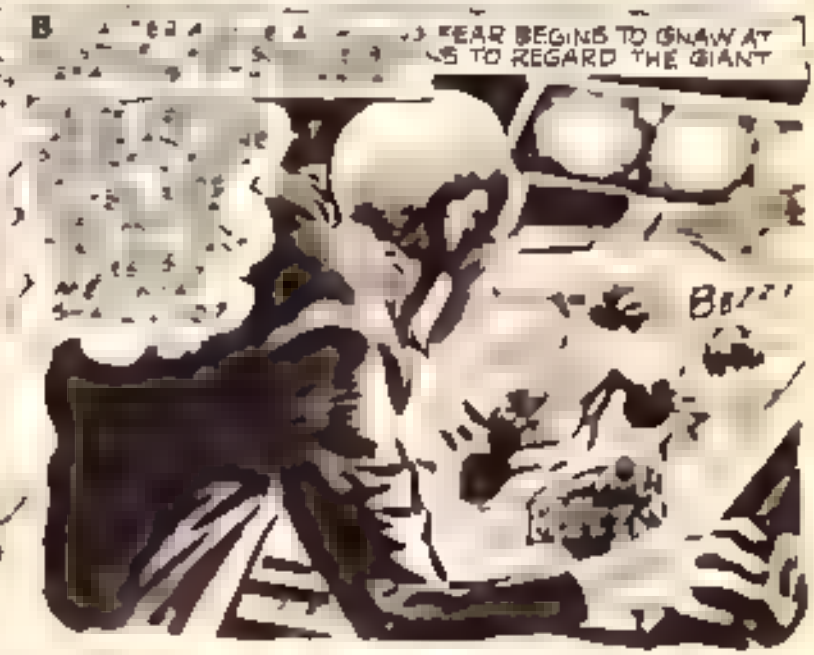

WOW! THEY RIPPED
ESH FROM
FINAL
KRUNT

DEMON FLIES
NO!
NO!
SIVE ARMY OF RED ANTS
TIM TEARING AT HIS
AAARGHHH

THE MEANS TO RID
THE FOOLS WHO SCORNED
ESE FLIES ARE MY

HELP

WHEEEE
BUZZ


FEAR BEGINS TO GNAW AT
S TO REGARD THE GIANT
BUZZ

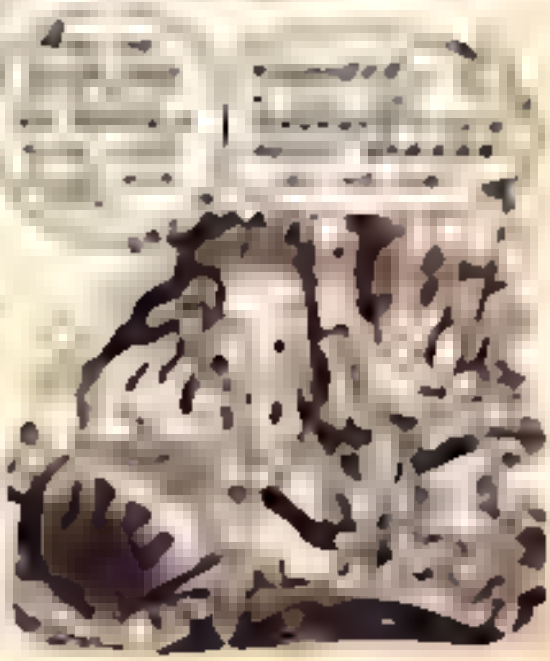
I HAVE IT. I WILL BREED A
TO
DEVOUR THE FLIES! A
ECTIVE DEVICE!

MASTER!
SSSSS

WELL DONE! NOW I NO LONGER FEAR
NOW TO RETURN YOU TO YOUR
I CAN USE YOU AGAIN
SUDDENLY WITHOUT WARNING THE GIANT SPIDER
AND AS THE APE COVERS THE BODY OF
STOP I ORDER YOU
NO NO STOP
CRASH
AS THE LAB IS DEVOURED BY FLAME NO GROUS
BUZZZ!!
BUZZ!
AAI EEEEEE

Terror Below

TERRIBLE PRICE
END HATE BREEDS
HATE - AND THEY WERE AVENGED BY
THE MONSTER CRABS

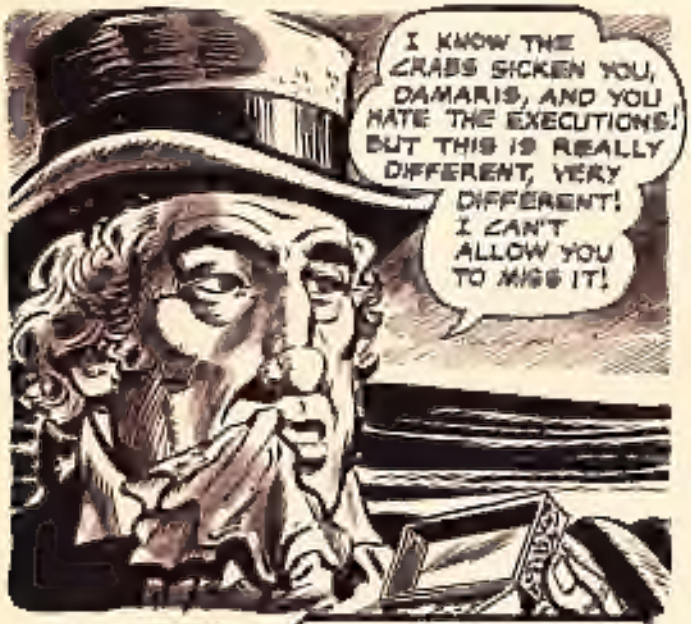


YES, SIR GILES! BUT WHY NOT HAVE THE POOR WRETCH KILLED NOW! HIS SCREAMS SICKEN YOUR WIFE!
NAY, LET THE ROGUE DIE SLOWLY! AS FOR DAMARIS, SHE IS YOUNG AND TENDER, AND KNOWS NOTHING OF SUCH THINGS. BUT SHE WILL LEARN — SHE MUST LEARN. TO RULE, ONE MUST BE HARD AT TIMES!
AHHHH— OAAAA— EEEEEEE!
A TOUGH ROGUE THAT ONE BUT HIS PIRATE FRIENDS WILL REMEMBER THOSE SCREAMS LONG AND HATE ME THE MORE FOR IT!
MY HUSBAND IS CRUEL BUT EVEN A PIRATE DESERVES A BETTER DEATH! JOHN MUST TAKE ME AWAY FROM THIS PLACE SOON — WE MUST. WE CAN GO TO THE AMERICAN COLONIES, ANYWHERE AS LONG AS IT'S AWAY FROM SIR GILES
DAMARIS IS IN LOVE WITH YOUNG JOHN BLAYDON THE GOVERNOR'S SECRETARY AND THAT EVENING WITH A TRUSTED NATIVE SERVANT.
WE MUST HURRY, MISTRESS SIR GILES WILL RETURN FROM THE FACTORS MEETING SOON AND IF HE FINDS US GONE
I KNOW, MELISSA HE WOULD GIVE US TO THE CRABS! BUT EVEN THAT CANNOT KEEP ME FROM SEEING MY LOVER.
SO THEY WALK THROUGH THE STREETS OF THE OLD TOWN
PATIENCE GIRL — IT WILL NOT BE LONG — JOHN WILL FIND A SHIP SOON AND WE SHALL BE GONE
I AM AFRAID MISTRESS WE PLAY WITH FIRE. YOU MUST FORSAKE THIS MADNESS
TO A LOVERS RENDEZVOUS...
DARLING I MUST GO SOON BUT PLEASE, IF YOU LOVE ME FIND A WAY TO TAKE ME AWAY SOON — SOON
I WILL DEAREST! BUT IT TAKES TIME! AS HIS SECRETARY I MUST ALWAYS BE NEAR SIR GILES AND — SOME TIMES I THINK HE SUSPECTS US! BUT A SHIP MUST COME SOON AND...

AS THE SERVANT GIRL
YOU!
OF THE LAW.
HAH-HAH. YOU SHOULD BE HONORED, GIRL! THE GOVERNOR HIMSELF WANTS A
SOLDIERS, THEY'RE FOLLOWING ME! OH, I'M SCARED!
MAKE THEM LET ME GO.
NOTHING TO FEAR!
TOGETHER! IS THIS NOT SO? SPEAK, BLAST YOU! SPEAK AND SAVE
THAT MY WIFE AND
TO NO AVAIL! AND FINALLY
SHE LIES BIND HER WELL, MEN! THE TIDE WILL BE OUT SOON AND THEN WE SHALL SEE! WE WILL HAVE THE TRUTH YET!
WIFE OR HER LOVER!
M-HERE THEY COME! THE M-MONSTER CRABS! THEY WILL EAT MY FLESH WHILE I STILL LIVE TO SUFFER! B-BUT IF I TELL THE TRUTH ABOUT MY
BUT THE PROSPECT OF THE CRABS IS MORE THAN MORTAL FLESH CAN BEAR! AS THE SLIMY
REACH HER
I-I-CAN'T EEEEEEEE-
'LL TELL, I'LL TELL! THEY ARE LOVERS. THEY'RE GOING TO RUN
RELEASE HER AND LOCK HIM UP! FOR SPEAK NO SHE SHALL HAVE-A QUICKER

LATER THAT SAME NIGHT, JOHN BURTON IS ARRESTED AT HIS HOME...
QUIET! YOU DON'T THINK WE'RE DOING THIS WITHOUT THE ORDERS OF HIS EXCELLENCY, DO YOU?
UNHAND ME, YOU FOOLS! YOU'LL SUFFER FOR THIS! I'M THE GOVERNOR'S SECRETARY! I'LL HAVE YOU WHIPPED!
HE'S GOT PLANS FOR YOU, MY BUCKO!

EARLY THE NEXT MORNING THE GOVERNOR INSISTS ON TAKING HIS LOVELY WIFE FOR A DRIVE...
B-BUT WHY ARE WE GOING IN THIS DIRECTION, GILES? YOU KNOW I DON'T LIKE THIS PART OF THE BEACH! PLEASE TAKE ME BACK!
THE STAKES, YOU MEAN? BUT MY DEAR, I HAVE A VERY SPECIAL TREAT FOR YOU THIS MORNING!


I KNOW THE CRABS SICKEN YOU, DAMARIS, AND YOU HATE THE EXECUTIONS! BUT THIS IS REALLY DIFFERENT, VERY DIFFERENT! I CAN'T ALLOW YOU TO MISS IT!

YOU SEE! A FRIEND OF YOURS! THE CRABS WILL SOON BE AFTER HIM!
JOHN! OH, NO, YOU CAN'T! OH, JOHN— JOHN, MY DARLING! I BROUGHT YOU TO THIS!

LET ME GO TO HIM! I LOVE HIM! HE IS GOOD AND KIND— YOU'RE EVIL AND VICIOUS! OHH—LET ME GO! LET ME DIE WITH HIM, LET THE CRABS EAT US BOTH!
NO, MY DEAR! IT WOULD HARDLY DO FOR MY WIFE TO BE EATEN BY CRABS! BUT NEVER FEAR—YOUR PUNISHMENT SHALL BE EVEN WORSE, AND LAST LONGER! YOU WILL NEVER SHAME ME AGAIN!

AND WHEN THE TIDE ROSE...
OHHHH— GAAAAAAAA! I CURSE YOU, SIR GILES! EVIL BE YOUR FATE! I—UH— YAAAAAAAAA— THE CRABS ARE TEARING AT ME! EEEEEEEEE—

AFTER THE HORRIBLE DEATH OF JOHN BURTON, THE GIRL WAS LOCKED IN HER ROOM! WEEKS PASSED AND SHE GREW PALE AND ILL, BUT NEVER WOULD SHE LOOK OR SPEAK TO SIR GILES...
THERE IS MUCH SHIPPING IN THE HARBOR THESE DAYS! WHAT DOES IT MEAN?
IT IS WHISPERED, MISTRESS, THAT HIS EXCELLENCY GOES TO HUNT FOR PIRATES! THEY HATE HIM AND GROW BOLDER EVERY DAY!
I PRAY THAT THE PIRATES KILL HIM! THAT THEY TORTURE HIM FIRST! I WANT HIM TO SUFFER AS JOHN SUFFERED, AND AS I SUFFERED! AS WE ALL SUFFER! I MUST HAVE VENGEANCE, I MUST!
AND AT LAST THE MILLS OF REVENGE BEGIN TO GRIND! A PIRATE SHIP SAILS TO THE VERY MOUTH OF THE HARBOR AND ENGAGES THE GOVERNOR'S FLAG-SHIP...
FIRE AWAY, BULLIES! SCUTTLE THE BLOODY BUTCHER!
AYE—IF WE LOSE WE'LL FEED THE CRABS!
GET THE RANGE, YOU FOOLS! SINK THE SEA SCUM! FIRE!
THE PIRATE GETS A LUCKY SHOT INTO THE POWDER MAGAZINE OF THE FLAGSHIP...
GAHHHH—
EEEEE—
AND THERE IS BUT ONE LONE SURVIVOR— SIR GILES ROMNEY...
S-SAFE! THE TIDE'S TAKING ME IN TOWARD THE STAKE BEACH! HAH, I'LL SHOW THE ROGUES IT TAKES MORE THAN A CHANCE SHOT TO KILL ME! I'LL GET ANOTHER SHIP AND SWEEP THEM FROM THE SEA!
A SUDDEN TROPICAL SQUALL COMES ON AND WHIPS THE SEA INTO WATERY MOUNTAINS...
THE W-WAVES! HAVE TO HOLD ONTO THIS TIMBER OR I'LL DROWN! LET THE STORM TOSS ME ONTO THE BEACH!
YIIIIIIIIII— THE TIMBER! GOING TO C-CRUSH ME! GAAAAAAA—
CONTINUED ON BACK COVER

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City ..... Zone ..... State .....

WHEN SIR GILES REGAINS CONSCIOUSNESS MINUTES LATER, THE TIDE IS ON THE EBB— AND HE IS TRAPPED BENEATH THE GIANT TIMBER...
MY L-LEGS! BROKEN! C-CAN'T MOVE! I'M TRAPPED AND— GAAAAA, IT'S ALMOST TIME FOR THE CRABS TO COME IN! HELP— HELP!
DAMARIS! MY WIFE! OH, THANK GOODNESS YOU CAME IN TIME! HELP ME GET THE TIMBER OFF BEFORE THE CRABS COME! B-BOTH MY LEGS BROKEN! HURRY, DEAREST!
HELP YOU, GILES! HAH-HAH!
DAMARIS! IN THE NAME OF HEAVEN I BEG YOU! HELP ME! THE CRABS—D-DON'T LEAVE ME HERE FOR THEM! YOU'RE MY WIFE— YOU CAN'T...
HIS WIFE LEAVES AND WITH HER GOES THE LAST HOPE OF SIR GILES ROMNEY...
NO, YOU FILTHY CREATURES! STAY OFF! GET AWAY! N-NO-NO! GAAAAAAAA—
CAN'T I? CAN'T WE, THE WHOLE TOWN? THEY ALL KNOW YOU'RE HERE, GILES, YET NOBODY COMES TO HELP YOU! THEY'RE GOING TO LEAVE YOU FOR THE CRABS, MY DEAR HUSBAND! HOW I'LL LAUGH WHEN YOU BEGIN SCREAMING!
AIEEEEEEEE— OHHHHHHHH— EEEEEEE—
DAMARIS ROMNEY DIED SOON AFTERWARD! BUT TO THIS DAY THE NATIVES OF TORTUGA SWEAR THAT HER GHOST WALKS THE OLD BEACH AND LAUGHS AT NIGHT...
HAH-HAH-HEE-HEE! WE HAD OUR REVENGE, JOHN, DARLING! SUCH REVENGE! HO-HO-HO-HEEE-HEEEEE—
THE END